

# FINANCIAL NEWS AND COMMENT

**Stocks Rally When Subjected to Further Professional Pressure.**

## RAILS AMONG LEADERS

Overnight news added nothing to arguments for speculative uneasiness in Wall Street yesterday. On the contrary, the compliance of Germany with Washington's demand for the recall of the German army and navy attaches was a suggestion that apprehensions about the aggravation of our strained relations with the central Powers had been speculatively exaggerated. So far as the stock market itself was concerned the session suggested that constructive tendencies were still more or less in abeyance and that professional traders who have been disposed for weeks to operate against prices, had marked only minor gains within the limits of their vision. These limits were defined again, as they have been so repeatedly defined in the past month, by the disclosure of absorptive capacity during intervals of price recession.

Trading was moderately active, but the units of dealing were small and quite in proportion to the scale of business which has been lately. The opening was steady, but it was followed by a general drive which carried quotations a point or so below Friday's close. On the side stocks were readily taken, and when the selling movement stopped purchasers had to bid up for their requirements. The market turned dull on the rally, a token that while a good deal of buying power seemed to await recognition, it was disposed to hold low prices up very flat. The dullness evoked no renewal of pressure, however, and there was a further hardening of the list in the last hour, the significance of which was not materially qualified by reactions in the last few minutes on profit-taking by traders.

Railroad stocks, with New York Central and Norfolk & Western leaders, were a prominent trading feature of the market, their rise implying that investment and speculative interests were not wholly blind to the argument for values which is being shaped by the development of profitable business expansion. At the same time the general market and smaller stocks rallied easily where they had been much depressed and some issues like United States Steel exhibited underlying firmness throughout.

Cotton broke about \$2 a bale, unquestionably an effect of the congested speculative long account in the staple. In the foreign exchange market London was the little weaker, but bills on London have established themselves in the last few days at new high levels of recovery. An important contribution to this sustained strength has been given by some increase of liquidation of our securities from abroad.

One consequence of the British Government's plan to mobilize British holdings of American securities has been to stimulate such selling, but the scheme as a whole is favorably regarded. It will work for a regulated liquidation of securities and should furnish a basis for an increase of loan accommodation from our banking system, which will help to stabilize exchange and sustain our export trade. So far as concerns the effect of foreign liquidation on our market it is to be noted that our level of quoted values has made a substantial rise this year against precisely such selling. The weekly bank statement showed an increase of more than \$24,000,000 in liquidating, while a trifling decrease of surplus reserves.

A circumstance of the stock market in the past week which Wall Street seemed to find peculiar was its obdurate unresponsiveness to good news, but it is to be doubted if this exhibition of apathy was at all remarkable. A resting period was plainly portended by the excited activity of the previous week, and the rest and excuse for a conservative attitude have been furnished by considerations connected with international and domestic politics. The war has not been going well for the Allies, although financial opinion on balance has not been changed about the eventual outcome of the war. The approaching dissolution of the Anglo-German bondholders has been heralded by a moderate break in the price of the bonds, but there is no question that in a free and open market the loan will ultimately find a very satisfactory lodgment, for if these bonds are not a good investment it would be difficult to prove that any investments are worth having at this time.

The situation in the war, actually in no greater state of strain than they have been since last spring, even though Congress is in session. As for domestic politics the political outlook is very well denoted by the Administration's programme. Nothing could be more practical and constructive that the purpose denoted by the preparedness policy of the Progressive party advocated, and the movement which he favors for a liberal readjustment of government relations to the railroads is illustrative of a great change in political thought.

Influences more directly bearing on values have been exhibited in all the indexes of increasing trade and industrial activity, and these are now breaking despite inadequate shipping facilities. The United States Steel Corporation's tonnage statement for November, showing a gain of 1,024,000 tons following the October gain of 847,000 tons, with prices for steel products still rising, is a gauge of active forward enterprise in all lines, for the bulk of steel comes from domestic sources.

Meanwhile the "A" stocks are beginning to get into public hands through the increased scale of dividend disbursements, a particular feature of the past week being the enlarged corporate dividends declarations.

That such matters have had no marked reflection on the stock market has been the cause of increasing interest on the part of professional speculators and has provoked some liquidation by timid public traders. In the long run, however, developments of the sort only make for optimistic confidence in the future of the securities market.

## THE PHILADELPHIA MARKET.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 11.—The stock market here was quiet, with a moderate volume of transactions recorded. Camera Steel closed 10 points over its last high, and Pennsylvania Rail, certificates of which are the nationally highest, were neglected. The summary:

Open High Low Close Bid Ask Rt. Sales.

100 Adams Express..... 128 128 128 128 4

6500 Alaska G. M. 23% 23% 22% 23 + 1/2

100 Allis Chalmers. 100 100 100 100 4

250 Allis Chalmers pf. 81% 82 81 81 4

97% 10 100 100 100 4

1200 Alton & St. Louis. 71 71 71 71 4

400 Am. Agr. Chem. 71% 71 70 70 4

200 Am. Brake Shoe. 102 105 105 105 4

2400 Am. Can. Car. F. 60 60 59 60 4

1500 Am. Can. Car. F. 60 60 59 60 4

100 Am. Coal Pr. 125 125 125 125 4

100 Am. Express. 128 128 128 128 4

100 Am. Ht. & Leather. 100 100 100 100 4

100 American Iron. 264 27 264 264 + 1/2

500 Am. Linseed Co. 38 38 38 38 4

200 Am. Linseed Co. pf. 68% 69 69 69 4

2800 Am. Locomotive. 97% 97 96 95 4

3200 Am. Smelt. 97% 97 96 95 4

100 Am. Smelt pf. 110% 110% 110% 110% 4

300 Am. Smelt. See A. 89% 89% 89% 89% 4

100 Am. Smelt. See B. 85% 85% 85% 85% 4

100 Am. Steel Ply. 61% 62 61 61 4

300 Am. Sugar. 115% 115% 115% 115% 4

800 Am. Tel & Tel. 128% 128% 128% 128% 4

200 Am. Tobacco. 215 215 208 208 + 1/2

100 Am. Tobacco pf. 108 108 108 108 4

325 Am. Woolen. 48 48 47% 47% + 1/2

100 Am. Woolen. 48% 48% 48% 48% 4

100 Am. Woolen pf. 85 85 85% 85% + 1/2

9 11 11 11 4

100 Am. T. & S. F. 106 106 106 + 1/2

200 Am. T. & S. F. pf. 101% 101% 101% 101% 4

2 Bank of Com. 176 176 176 176 4

5500 Baldwin Loco. 112 113% 111 113% + 1/2

2000 Ball & Ohio. 93 93% 93 93% + 1/2

325 Battopias. 3% 4 3% 4 + 1/2

1000 Bell Steel. 155 155 155 155 4

2400 B. F. Goodrich. 72% 73% 71% 72% + 1/2

400 B. R. T. 88% 88% 88% 88% 4

600 Burns Bros. 80 80 80 80 4

1300 Butte & S. C. 70 70% 69% 70% + 1/2

27 27% 27% 27% 27% 4

700 California Pet. 26% 27% 26% 27% + 1/2

400 California Pet. pf. 56% 56% 56% 56% 4

179% 179% 178% 178% 4

3400 Canadian Pacific. 180 180 180 180 4

1000 Central Leather. 54% 54% 54% 54% 4

700 Chesapeake & Ohio. 72% 73% 71% 72% + 1/2

100 Chicago & West. 14% 14% 14% 14% 4

500 Chicago Great West. 39% 39% 39% 39% 4

131 132% 132% 132% 132% 4

18 18% 18% 18% 18% + 1/2

6300 Ch. R. I. & P. 19% 18% 18% 18% + 1/2

2300 Chile Copper. 23% 23% 23% 23% + 1/2

53 53% 53% 53% 53% + 1/2

1700 Chime Copper. 17% 17% 17% 17% + 1/2

2000 Chitt. & Co. & Co. 73% 73% 73% 73% + 1/2

2500 Col. Fuel & L. 10% 10% 10% 10% 4

200 Comp. T. & E. 42 42 42 42 4

14% 14% 14% 14% + 1/2

1300 Con Gas. 28 28 27% 27% + 1/2

800 Corn Products. 142 142% 141% 142% + 1/2

100 Corn Products pf. 90 90% 89% 89% + 1/2

1000 Crucible Steel. 71% 72% 71% 72% + 1/2

1000 Curtiss-Wright. 110 110 110 110 4

1000 D. & R. & W. 14% 14% 14% 14% + 1/2

1000 Day & Rockwood. 10% 10% 10% 10% 4

15 15% 15% 15% 15% 4

150 Dist. United Ry. 2000 2000 2000 2000 4

200 Distillers' Secur. 27% 28% 27% 28% + 1/2

1200 Dom. Mines. 23 23 23 23 4

1000 E. & P. 57% 57% 56% 57% + 1/2

1700 Erie 1st pf. 57% 57% 56% 57% + 1/2

2000 Erie 2d pf. 50% 50% 50% 50% + 1/2

72 72% 72% 72% 72% + 1/2

100 Erie 3d pf. 47% 47% 47% 47% + 1/2

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